

Making Rolled Film Spools For Outdated Films

Being that most photographers have older cameras, and the available films is impossible to find on the open market, cutting other type of films is a viable solution. [*i.e. = X-ray Film / Aviation Film / and a few others.*] Then, after cutting to size, roll these cut strips onto spools to use in the old cameras. The main problem is that the spools are extremely difficult to acquire - and often - expensive. One solution to this problem is to make your own. Here in this PDF article, I shall show just how I am doing it. And it is rather easy - for one that has some tools, and the willingness to make them.

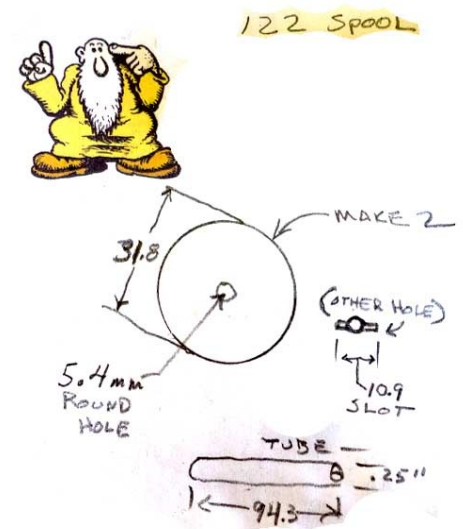
NOTE=> *In this article I will be showing how I made 122 film spools to fit a Kodak Special "Autographic" 3-A Model "B" camera.*

First is to take measurements and think of materials that one may use to complete the task. After making these measurements a trip to the local hardware store is required.

I used "fender washers" as they were the same size as the end shoulders of the 122 film spool. The Hole in the washers is 1/4 of an inch. The axle-tube was about 1/16" over and the washer hole had to be enlarged to fit exactly the axle to be soldered together.

[I used 1/4" copper tubing as that was what I had around the shop. I think that 3/8" tubing would match the axle best for the 122 spools. However, this is all that I had handy, so I used that.]

After getting the materials together, the measuring, and making these parts fit to size, I cleaned all parts where the pieces would be soldered together. And this is a MUST. ***[A small propane torch will be used to do the work.]***



Above-^ - some of the measurements are in millimeters, and some are in inches.

Care must be taken to assure proper flow of the solder and not be injured. So safety with the use of a propane torch is required - Think before use.

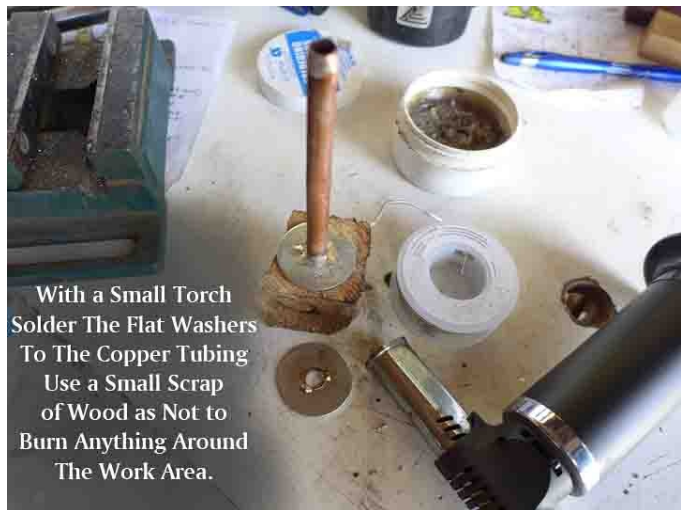
[If you are not proficient at soldering, go watch a VID on YouTube and do a little practice. It is not a difficult thing to do. = I learned to solder when I was 10. If a ten year old can do it, anyone can.]



Measure The Distance of The Spool's Center Axle
And Cut to Be Flush with The Outside Edges of The Washers



Preparing To Assemble, By Soldering, The Spool Parts Together



With a Small Torch
Solder The Flat Washers
To The Copper Tubing
Use a Small Scrap
of Wood as Not to
Burn Anything Around
The Work Area.



Soldering Complete

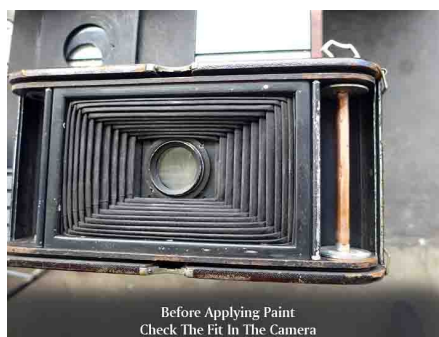


Getting Ready to Cut A Slot in One End of The Spool Shoulder
On The OUTSIDE to Fit The Take-up Winder Key



With a Small Cutting Disk - Cut a Slot To Fit Rewind Key Drive

The procedures shown above in the six photos are in the sequence that I made the spools.



Before Applying Paint
Check The Fit In The Camera

The only thing that I did not do was to cut a “guide slot” for the Backing Paper to go into for the winding of the take-up leader of the film roll. I can just use tape to adhere the leader to the axle of the take-up spool. *[I may do that later.]*

This little project was of little cost - as compared to purchasing old film for the spools. The “fender washers” cost about 20 cents each and a length of copper tubing, I forget just how much, one may make many spools from a investment of under twenty dollars. Plus the time and effort involved.



*Thank you for reading - James R. Kyle, Saint
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**Spray Paint With Flat Black
Let the Paint Cure**

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